

Intrinsic gauging for tube fittings

Abstract

An intrinsic gauging device for a ferrule type tube fitting of the type having a coupling nut, a coupling body and at least one ferrule, includes a precisely formed marking that has a predetermined relationship with the coupling nut when the fitting has been initially pulled-up. The marking may be realized as a precision groove or recess machined into a surface. The groove can be made more easily visually perceptible such as by roughening, knurling or coloring the surface. The groove defines an edge at a precise position that corresponds to a predetermined axial displacement of the nut relative to the body for initial pull-up. The marking may also be formed with a precise dimension such as an axial length to provide a second edge that corresponds to a predetermined axial displacement of the nut relative to the body beyond initial pull-up for fitting assemblies that are remade.